

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 749  
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Paul Wilson Smith on the occasion  
of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Paul Wilson Smith is one such estimable person who has served with distinction since 1992 as Chief of the Bartlett Fire Department, culminating a thirty-eight year career as a firefighter after recently announcing his plans to retire; and

WHEREAS, a man of courage and conviction with a keen sense of duty, Paul W. Smith began his career as a firefighter with the Memphis Fire Department where he served with distinction for twenty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Paul Smith accepted the challenge to lead the Bartlett Fire Department; during his tenure as Fire Chief his leadership has been instrumental in establishing the professional, highly trained, and exemplary members of the firefighting force that comprise the ranks of the Bartlett Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Paul Smith was the driving force in establishing a committee to reorganize the fire department that ultimately led to the creation of professional standards for firefighters and dramatic increases in the numbers of firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians on the Bartlett Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, serving during a period of rapid growth in the City of Bartlett, Chief Smith oversaw the expansion of the Bartlett Fire Department to four engine houses with additional firefighters assigned to each engine and the purchase of additional emergency equipment; and

WHEREAS, a firefighter's firefighter who understands the keys to fire prevention, Fire Chief Paul Wilson Smith is particularly proud of his effort in the establishment of a sprinkler

ordinance for the City of Bartlett which requires any building over 10,000 square feet, regardless of age, to have a sprinkler system; and

WHEREAS, lauded by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Bartlett at his retirement announcement, Chief Smith was called “a great leader during a high growth period” having earned the respect and admiration of his employees and his superiors; and

WHEREAS, a true family man who readily acknowledges the sacrifices he and his family have made in time spent together for him to meet the round-the-clock demands of his job, Paul W. Smith is especially thankful for the love and companionship of his beloved wife of 37 years, Shirley Marroitti Smith, and is the proud father of devoted son, Bryan Paul Smith; and

WHEREAS, Paul Smith is a loyal fan of the University of Memphis football and basketball teams, a season ticket holder for over 34 years, and will surely be spending his retirement and new free time supporting the Tigers, hunting at his cabin in Henderson County, playing golf, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Paul W. Smith has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Chief Paul Wilson Smith our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.